

- 9 (amended). Antibodies, characterized by being directed against the eucaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase according to [any of claims] claim 1 [or 2 or a nucleic acid according to at least one of claims 3 to 8].

- 14 (amended). A medicament containing the eucaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase according to [any of claims] claim 1 [or 2, a nucleic acid according to at least one of claims 3 to 8, and/or an antibody according to claim 9], together with further auxiliary agents

- 15 (amended). A diagnostic agent containing the eucaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase according to [any of claims] claim 1 [or 2, a nucleic acid according to at least one of claims 3 to 8, and/or an antibody according to claim 9], together with further auxiliary agents.

- 16 (amended). Use of the medicaments according to claim 14 [or the diagnostic agents according to claim 15] for the [diagnosis and] treatment of diseases based on over- or underexpression and/or an increased or reduced activity of eucaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase and/or disorders of cell proliferation, cell differentiation and/or apoptosis.

Add the following claims.

22. Antibodies, characterized by being directed against a nucleic acid according to claim 3.
23. A medicament containing a nucleic acid according to claim 3 together with further auxiliary agents.